

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated December 2, 2003. Prior to the above amendments, claims 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21-25 and 29 were pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner allowed claims 8, 9, 12 and 18. After entry of the above amendments, allowed claims 8, 9, 12 and 18 remain in the application and claims 5, 13, 19, 21-25 and 29 are newly cancelled. As a result, claims 1-7, 10, 11, 13-17 and 19-29 are now cancelled.

The above amendments are intended to put the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance covering the allowed claims.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicant agrees with the Examiner's conclusions regarding the patentability of the allowed claims, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, applicant believes that the application is allowable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed, independent of how the Examiner paraphrased the invention.

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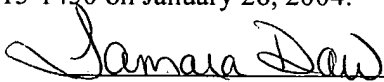
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If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

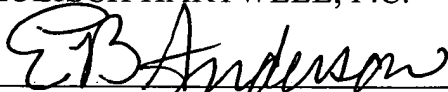
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on January 26, 2004.


Tamara Daw

Respectfully submitted,

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